

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 99-3-1**

Date Prepared: February 25, 1999
For Work Week Commencing: March 1, 1999
Business Meeting: March 1, 1999, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. PSC Tax Passthrough Order – To approve an order authorizing the collection of the .03% increase in the PSC tax for the period 4/1/98 through 10/1/98 (3/2/99)
2. Docket N98.9.200 City of Helena Gas License – Discuss/Act on Permanent License (3/2/99)
3. Missoula Water Works/Valley West – Continued discussion of PSC jurisdiction over private utility operating municipal system (3/2/99)
4. Docket D96.12.220 – USWC rate restructuring – Discussion and action on settlement of NWPA v. PSC & USWC (3/2/99)
5. Dockets N99.2.20 & N99.2.44 – USWC Win Back tariff filings (one for residential and the other for business customers) – Discuss and act on filings (3/2/99)

6. USWC's proposal to remedy the recent billing error that affected residential local measured service customers – Discuss situation, obtain commission direction (3/2/99)
7. Docket D99.2.36 – Ronan v. CenturyTel – Decide whether to issue notice of complaint (3/2/99)

Legislative Meeting – Will be held at 9:30 am on the day of the Business Meeting.

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – N99.2.23 (Bonnie)

On February 4, 1999, US West filed Tariff Transmittal 99-07 introducing a "MontanaChoice" feature package for residential customers in Competitive Pricing zones. Features include call forwarding, call waiting, caller ID, 3-way calling and anonymous call rejection. The standard MontanaChoice rate is \$5.58/month. The rate is \$3.58, and the service is only available in the competitive zones.

2. CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO – Docket N99.2.25 (Vicki)

On February 5, 1999, Citizens Telecommunications filed tariff pages for text changes clarifying the Remote Call Forwarding Service and applicable usage charges.

3. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – N99.2.24 (KATE)

On February 4, 1999, U S West filed to revise the tariffs for the Cellular Loaner Program in accordance with its commitment to offer the program on a voluntary basis through December 31, 1999.

4. MONTANA POWER COMPANY DOCKET NO. D99.2.32 (Eric)

On February 11, 1999, MPC filed for authority to increase the amount of a financing lease previously authorized in Default Order No. 5997, with respect to the acquisition and installation of an automated meter reading system by \$4,000,000, from \$20,000,000 to \$24,000,000. A default order has been drafted.

5. LINCOLN TELEPHONE COMPANY- N99.1.12 (Wendy)

On January 25, 1999, Lincoln Telephone Company filed tariff pages to provide CLASS services on a detariffed basis. Lincoln has now agreed to offer these services on a tarified basis, consistent with the tarified services of other similar companies. The proposed services include Caller ID, Call Trace, Anonymous Call Rejection, Continuous Redial, etc. This item was noticed on the 2/1/99 agenda. Staff recommends approval on a tarified basis.

6. CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.1.17 (Nina)

On January 28, 1999, Citizens Telecommunications filed Advice Letter No. MT-99-02, adding pay per use charges for Repeat Dialing, Call Return, and Call Tracing Service, which apply when the feature is activated irrespective of whether the call is completed or not.. The associated minimum rates, the price list, and supporting cost data for the new offerings were also filed. This was a notice item on 2/16/99. Staff recommends approval.

7. INTERBEL TELEPHONE COOP – D98.10.225 (KAREN)

On October 6, 1998, AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc. notified the PSC that it had made a bona fide request (BFR) to InterBel Telephone Cooperative for implementation of intraLATA equal access. On December 15, 1998, the PSC waived the requirements of ARM 38.5.4101 – 38.5.4120, voted to treat the BFR as a request for interconnection negotiations pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(b)(3) and § 69-

3-834(2), MCA, and suspended further action until the parties had filed either a request for arbitration or an implementation agreement for approval. AT&T notified the PSC by letter received on December 28, 1998, that it wished to withdraw its BFR because InterBel had already implemented dialing parity via the "2-PIC" method. Therefore, no further PSC action is required and the Docket should be closed.

8. LINCOLN TELEPHONE COMPANY – D98.10.226 (KAREN)

Lincoln Telephone Company filed an application for approval of its IntraLATA dialing parity implementation plan on January 25, 1999, and concurrently filed a Motion for Partial Waiver of the PSC's dialing parity rules. Lincoln's plan provides for implementation within nine months of receiving a BFR from AT&T (on or about October 6, 1998). Thus, Lincoln requests a waiver of the six-month requirement in ARM 38.5.4103(2)(a). Lincoln represents that it has contacted AT&T, the only requesting carrier, and that AT&T does not object to the waiver.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.2.30 (Nina)

On February 10, 1999, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 99-10 "E-Mail and URL Listing Packages", to introduce a new Internet Listing Package option. This filing reduces the non-recurring rate for resident and business E-mail and URL directory listing. Also, customers who purchase both E-mail and a URL listing will receive a discount.

2. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS CO. – Docket N99.2.33 (Nina)

On February 12, 1999, Sprint Communications filed changes to its Montana PSC Price List No.1 as follows: To decrease Sprint Business Flex 500 Switched and Dedicated Rates; and to add text to change the Carrier Access Code from 10333 and 10XXX to 10-10-XXX.

3. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS CO. – Docket N99.2.39 (Nina)

On February 18, 1999, Sprint Communications filed changes to its Montana PSC Price List No.1. This filing adds text to Section 3.3 Liability of the Carrier.

4. CENTURYTEL – Docket N99.2.34 (Tina)

On February 12, 1999, CenturyTel filed Tariff Advice No. 99-1 to introduce a promotional offering in which the non-recurring charge will be waived when customers subscribe to additional residential or business lines at the same premise. The period of the promotion, if approved, will be March 15 through April 30. CenturyTel last offered this same promotion for the period October 1, 1998, through November 30, 1998.

5. AT&T – Docket N99.2.40 (Tina)

On February 18, 1999, AT&T filed Advice 99-01 to make changes to its Local Service Tariff. This filing removes 800 codes from the list of business lines a customer is responsible for obtaining on their own and introduces the Deal of the Century promotion. Both of these revisions are for the AT&T Digital Link Service.

6. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.2.45 (Jay)

On February 22, 1999 US West filed Tariff Transmittal 99-12 titled "Access your World Business Promotion." The promotion is for business customers for the period from March 22 through May 14. Business customers who subscribe to an additional Centrex 21 Rate Stabilized Analog Line during that period will receive a free URL listing for one year. Additionally, customers who add a flat business (1FB) and one (1) feature or an additional Centrex 21 line will receive a free Canon Colour Printer with copy/fax capability. The free printer is limited to one per customer account.

7. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.2.46 (Vicki)

On February 22, US West filed tariff pages to introduce the Additional Line Spring 1999 Promotion. The promotion offers residential customers a waiver of 50% of the installation charge for each additional line. The offer is limited to two additional lines per customer location. The promotional period is from March 29th through May 22, 1999.

8. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS Co – Docket N99.2.31 (Vicki)

On February 10, 1999, Sprint Communications filed tariff pages to introduce language and rates regarding the contributory and eligible usage regulations of Business Sense and language regarding the Sprint Business Flex product.

9. RONAN TELEPHONE COMPANY – N99.2.38 (BONNIE)

On February 18, 1999, Ronan Telephone Company filed new tariffs to introduce Centrex service. The basic service is proposed as fully tariffed and the enhanced services are filed as detariffed, with minimum price list rates included..

10. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – N99.2.43 (BONNIE)

On February 22, 1999, US West filed to introduce a new package of features marketed as ValueChoice to residential customers. The package includes an individual flat rated access line and the following features: Anonymous Call Rejection, Call Forwarding - Variable, Call Waiting Continuous Redial, Last Call Return, Priority Call, and Three-Way Calling. Three new packages of features are also introduced, available to residence customers with additional lines. They are the Fax Package, Teen/Roommate Package and Home Office Package.

Additionally, the rate for CustomChoice with additional lines is being reduced from \$29.95 to \$26.95 per month.

11. ECLIPSE COMMUNICATIONS CORP- D99.2.42 (KATE)

On February 22, 1999, Eclipse Communications filed its proposed tariff for its local exchange and intrastate toll services.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

D98.9.213 – Great Falls Gas – Notice of Staff Action Amending Procedural Schedule

D97.7.90 – MPC – Notice of Staff Action –Waived 10 day rule

D99.2.41 – One Eighty Communications – NSA – Assign new docket number

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 99-3-8

US West Docket N99.2.30 (Nina)

Sprint Docket N99.2.33 (Nina)

Sprint Docket N99.2.39 (Nina)

CenturyTel Docket N99.2.34 (Tina)

AT&T Docket N99.2.40 (Tina)

USWC Docket N99.2.46 (Vicki)

Sprint Docket N99.2.31 (Vicki)

Ronan Telephone Docket N99.2.36 (Bonnie)

USWC Docket N99.2.43 (Bonnie)

New Filings Received in Past Week

D99.2.32 – MPC – Application for authority to finance acquisition & installation of auto meter read system

N99.2.33 – Sprint – Tariff to change carrier access code; decrease business flex 500 switched and dedicated rates

N99.2.34 – CenturyTel – Tariff promo for additional residential or business lines at same premise

N99.2.35 – USWC – Tariff 98-50 Competitive zone compliance filing to remove reference to maximum rates for non-recurring rate elements

D99.2.36 – Ronan Telephone vs CenturyTel complaint

D99.2.37 – USWC – Interconnection agreement w/CCCMT, Inc.

N99.2.38 – Ronan Telephone – Tariff to introduce Centrex

N99.2.39 – Sprint – Tariff price lists and new services

N99.2.40 – AT&T – Tariff Deal of the Century Promo and other changes to Local Service Tariff

D99.2.41 – One Eighty Communications – Complete tariff filing

D99.2.42 – Eclipse Communication Corp – Complete tariff filing

N99.2.43 – USWC – Tariff 99-15 intro valuechoice, add'l line & rate reduction for customChoice

N99.2.44 – USWC – Tariff 99-13 Business Competitive Response WinBack

N99.2.45 – USWC – Tariff 99-12 Access your world business promo

N99.2.46 – USWC – Tariff 99-11 Residence add'l line spring 99 promo

N99.2.47 – USWC – Tariff 99-14 Restructure ISDN (SLS) Single Line Service